

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3 and ending at page 6, line 18 with the following:

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D2  
FIGS. 5-6 illustrate an embodiment of a slider 200-2 with a dynamically imbalanced SLIP interface and predicted tipped interface. As shown, the slider 200-2 include raised side rails 230, 232 and raised bearing pad 234 elevated above a recessed bearing surface 235 ~~formed on of~~ a slider body 236. Side rails 230, 232 are formed on opposed first and second side portions 130, 132 aligned relative to the leading and trailing edges 126, 128 of the slider so that side rail 230 is aligned relative to an inner diameter of a disc and side rail 232 is aligned relative to an outer diameter of a disc. Raised bearing pad 234 is elevated above recessed bearing surface 235 and is positioned proximate to the trailing edge 128 of the slider body 236. The raised bearing surfaces 230, 232, 234 face the disc surface so that rotation of the disc creates an air flow along the raised bearing surfaces 230, 232, 234 from the leading edge 126 to the trailing edge 128 of the slider 200-2 for proximity or near proximity recording operation. In the illustrated embodiment, transducer element 238 (illustrated schematically) is supported proximate to the trailing edge 128 of the slider 200-2 which is supported at a pitch angle so that the transducer element 238 is supported proximate to the disc surface for operation.

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 17 and ending at page 7, line 29 with the following:

D3

FIG. 9 illustrates an alternate embodiment of a dynamically imbalanced slider 200-3 with predicted tipped interface for a dual rail slider design. Slider 200-3 includes opposed raised side rails 270, 272 elevated above recessed bearing surface 273 which extend between the leading and trailing edges 126, 128 of the slider body 274. Transducer elements 238 illustrated diagrammatically are formed proximate to trailing edge 128 as shown. In the illustrated embodiment, leading edge portions 206, 208 and trailing edge portion 212 includes SLIPs 280, 282, 284 cooperatively forming a dynamically imbalanced elevated SLIP interface and a bearing surface interface 286 at a predicted tipped position on trailing edge portion 210 of the slider 200-3.

SLIPs 280, 282 are dynamically balanced between opposed leading edge side portions 206, 208 and SLIP 284 is dynamically unbalanced relative to trailing edge portion 210 to form the predicted bearing surface interface 286 at the predicted tipped position.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 and ending at page 8, line 12 with the following:

D4

FIGS. 10-13 illustrate an alternate embodiment of a dynamically imbalanced slider 200-4 with predicted tipped interface. The slider 200-4 includes a slider body 288 having raised bearing rails 290, 292 and raised center pad 294 elevated above a recessed bearing surface 295. Raised bearing rails 290, 292 incorporate a multi-tiered bearing structure with dampening trenches for desired dynamic response and settling for optimizing bearing dynamics. The multi-tiered structure includes multiple

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surface tiers including a raised tier 296, and a stepped tier 298. As shown, a raised U-shaped ledge 300 is fabricated on the stepped tier 298 by known masking processes to form a trench channel 302 for desired dynamic response. As shown in FIGS. 10-13, raised tier 296 is positioned proximate to the leading edge 126 of the slider and U-shaped ledge 300 is formed proximate to the trailing edge 128.

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